

The Book of Job

Study 8

Chapter 10

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The next few Chapters talk about the discourse between Job and his three friends. We have understood that they are not positive or encouraging people but casts blame on Job for the trouble he finds himself in. I do not propose to continue to study the next few chapters mainly because I wanted to concentrate on the first few chapters and the work of Satan in our lives and the fact that God has everything under control and the last few Chapters which tell of the victory Job achieved.

I will give you some headings on the next chapters so that if you wish to continue yourselves you have some guidelines to follow.

Chapter 11 Zophar another of Job's "friends" accuses Job of being a lying hypocrite.

Chapter 11 verse 13 Job is urged to repent and stop sinning.

Chapter 12 Job replies that he is innocent.

Chapter 12 7 Job acknowledges God's omnipotence.

Chapter 13 Job tells his friends they are lying.

Chapter 13 v 14 Job defends his integrity.

Chapter 13 v 19 Job prays to the Lord.

Chapter 14 Job talks about life's woes.

The next few chapters each of Job's "friends" make speeches

Chapter 32 Introduces Elihu a man much younger than all of them assembled and in the next few chapters shows his lack of knowledge of God, his impertinence and his arrogance, he also claims to be perfect in knowledge in Chapter 36.

We will start again at chapter 38.

God has heard enough! He sat on the circle of the earth and listened to the long laborious speeches from men who know nothing but pretend to know everything. Then the infinite creator speaks, mainly He speaks to Job to put back into Job's whole being the power, majesty and strength, the love and compassion Job had lost since Satan was given permission to attack Job, beware that is just what Satan wants to do to all of us, cloud and confuse our Christian experience. God, in the next few verses restored Job's memory of how great his God was and reminds him of the nonsense he had cast before the Lord up to now which was an insult to the creator. It would seem that God appeared suddenly without warning in some form of atmospheric disturbance which would no doubt be quite overwhelming.

Chapter 38.

Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge? 3. Gird up now your loins like a man for I will demand of you, and answer thou me.

After the period of self pity, arguing with his friends and taking in all the rubbish they had spewed out to him which had weakened his mind and brought doubt in the process, in verses 2 onwards God was speaking of Job's friends. The Lord said of Job that he had '*spoken of Me the thing that is right*' (Chapter 42:7). Now God wants him to sit up and take notice, and He says I will ask questions afterwards! Here is some of the list:

V.4 Where were you when I laid the foundation of the Earth? (Speak if you understand what I am talking about)

V.5 Who has laid the measure of it? Or who has stretched the line upon it? (Who has measured every fine detail of it? Do you know?)

V.6 On what are the foundations thereof fastened or who laid the corner stone? The worlds are held up by the Word of God (Heb: 11, 3)

7. When the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

God asks Job how are the worlds, the stars and other planets held in place? He says they are held in place by the Word of God. This also refers to the completion of the creation of Earth and the Universe that 'hangs' in space held together by gravitational pull, wouldn't it be catastrophic if that 'pull' against each other that holds the planets secure in an open void were to stop or be taken away? At the conclusion of the creation the celebrations and adorations and shouts for joy were given by the angels in heaven and are no doubt still continuing.

8. Who shut up the sea with doors, when it brakes forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? 10/11 and brake up at my decreed place and set bars and doors. And said "Hitherto shall you come, but no further: and here shall your proud waves be stayed.

Here God is asking Job who is it who commands the seas and the waves. I live by the sea and often wonder as I sit at the shoreline that is continually washed by large waves that pound the beach taking all before it then back into another on coming wave doing the same thing and guess what yet another follows the last, God asks who manages all this? Who organises the rhythm of these waves that they do not all come in at once, day after day the same rhythm all along our beaches for miles. My father always said that every seventh wave is bigger than those that went before, and guess what he is right I have counted them many times, who arranged that?

Verse 12

Have you commanded the morning since your days; and caused the dayspring to know its place: 16. Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or have you walked in search of the depth. 18. Have you perceived the breadth of the earth? Declare if you know it.

Have you arranged the morning to follow night, in sequence, on time, without fail, year in year out asks God? God asks Job has he searched the depth of the sea to find where the springs and fountains are and found out why the sea never dries up. He asks Job if he had ever had the doors of hell and death opened to him, has he ever considered how wide the earth is. At this point God says; declare if you know it all! Or "stop Me if you know all this information!" which of course Job didn't.

19 Where is the way where light dwells? And as for darkness, where is the place thereof.

God asks Job where the light comes from. In fact light is a thing quite distinct from the sun (Gen: 1: 3. & 16) God is the very essence of light (John 1: 4-9) and that light is of such magnitude that it continues today to expand into the universe at a rate of 186,000 miles a second! Although Job did not know this in his day we do today and we can wonder at the magnificence of our God. But where does the darkness come from? It comes about by the earth rotating slowly so that the light from the sun gradually diminishes and darkness comes, but who manages this so that it is regular, timed and continuous?

21. Do you know it because you were then born or because the number of your days is great? 22. Have you entered into the treasures of the snow or have you seen the treasures of the hail? 23 Which I have reserved against the time of trouble against the day of battle and war?

Again God asks Job if he knew any of this, which Job didn't. If you do, is that because you were born when I created, made or formed any of this; are you as old as I am Job? Did you arrange for every creature to reproduce after its own kind? An apple tree still produces apples and not lemons even after some 6,000 years the law of reproduction remains unbroken. He says *have you looked closely at the snowflake and wondered at its beauty or have you studied the hail stone?* They tell us that no two snow flakes are the same that is mind blowing! Do you know where all this comes from and did you know I have used these elements in war against my enemies and will do so again? (Ex. 9:22-26; Josh.10: 11; Rev. 8; 7 11:19; 16: 21) There is no doubt that we have a wonderful creator God and these Chapters should be read to Atheists, Humanists and Evolutionists and all who belittle the Christian faith.

31. Can you bind the sweet influences of Pleiades or loose the bands of Orion? 33. Do you know the ordinances of the Heavens, can you set the dominion thereof in the earth?

The Chaldean name for Pleiades is Pivot and astronomers claim that the largest of these stars mentioned form a Pivot around which the solar system revolves. It is now known that our sun is 3,000 billion miles away from Pleiades and verse 31 asks *can we bind the sweet influences of Pleiades* can we control the workings of space bearing in mind they are held in space just by the Word of God. It is amazing that the influence of these stars of Pleiades swing in space together like clockwork with unvarying regularity.

God also speaks of "Orion". This is a constellation also known as the Giant. The space in the sword of the giant is estimated to be Two trillion two hundred billion (2,200,000,000,000) times bigger than our sun. I don't know about you but I am feeling rather small and insignificant but also wonder at the fact that God so loved this world that He gave His only Son to die for us to make a way back to God.

What has all this information overload got to do with the story of Job? Well I believe this great contest is between God and Satan with Job right in the middle and is being played out in front of the whole spirit world. God wants to show Satan just how great and mighty He is and how futile it is for Satan and his fallen angels or mortal man for that matter, to contend with Him.

Satan went rudely and over confidently into heaven but it was God who asked Satan if he had considered Job. Now in Chapters 38, 39, 40 and 41 God is showing Satan just how small he is in the light of the majestic, almighty God creator of all things.

Verse 34/35

*Can you lift up your voice to the clouds that abundance of waters may cover you?
Can you send lightning that they may go and say unto you here we are? Who has put wisdom in the inward parts or who has given understanding to the heart?*

There have been times in some places of the world that attempts have been made to make it rain by shooting up shells, or chemicals into the clouds but all in vain. Here God is telling us that all He has to do is speak to the clouds to make rain fall on us. He is also telling us that He can send streaks of lightning of different shapes shooting across the sky and they have the ability to tell God, and us *"here we are"*.

Think about it! How come we earthlings can have wisdom or understanding, where do we get that from, where do all the workings of those few seconds to make a quick decision to avoid an accident come from, God says it is He who gives us understanding and wisdom where would any of us be without the gift of understanding or wisdom?

Verse 39

Will you hunt the prey for the lions or fill the appetite of the young lions

Verse 41

Who provides for the raven his food when the young ones cry unto God they wander for lack of meat.

God provides for the highest and the lowest of His creation. All are noted by Him and He sees their needs how much more will He care and provide for us His creation especially those who love Him? God is showing Job just how great He is and asks Job is there anything in the world he can do that is equal to God?

Read Chapters 38 and 39 again and let the magnitude of our God sink into your hearts.

I think it is at this point I must tell you folks that as I have read these verses I repent to this great God of my contention and arguments with Him as to why He has left me, and you and many others that my wife and I pray for to suffer great pain and hardship and some with serious ill health. I can only conclude He knows all about it but He has everything under His control. We suffer for His sake and although we may not understand down here we will when we receive a crown of life and that *eternal weight of glory* when we meet Him. These last chapters of Job seem to have little bearing on Job's situation but I believe this great contest is being played out to the whole spirit world and is really a great contest between God and Satan to show the futility of man, Satan and his fallen angels to contend with God. Job unfortunately is in the middle of it all but a useful tool in Gods hands.

In Chapter 40 v 3 Job answers God and says,

Behold I am vile; what shall I answer you? I will lay my hand over my mouth.

Job is convicted of his ignorance, impotence and sinfulness and learns that he is but dust in the Masters hands and compared to God he is nothing. We too must learn that even with our great "ministries" our television programmes our mega churches and the like we are nothing compared to the majesty of the great creator God. *Except*, thankfully by the grace of this very God who sent His only Son Jesus to die on a cross and pay the price needed to bring us back to God the Father, and if we accept Jesus as our Saviour and Lord we become kings and priests unto Him, we can become more than conquerors, victorious over sin and death because we now belong to this great God who in these chapters show just how big He is and how small we are.

Chapter 41 deals with Satan represented as the Leviathan. Some believe the Leviathan is a very large animal that became extinct very many years ago and I respect that view, but there are certain words and sentences that lead us to believe God is giving a description of Satan and he is portrayed as a great dragon who is the enemy of God and man.

Chapter 41 verse 2:

Can you put a hook into his nose or bore his jaw through with a thorn? 3. Will he make many supplications unto you will he speak soft words unto you?

The Lord is telling man that he cannot oppose, subdue or stand up to Satan in his own strength. The battle with Satan is not physical, financial or mental but Spiritual. Satan will tempt the heart of man continuously seeking to deceive, and bring about confusion and divisions, not only in man's heart but also in the church. The Bible says "*will he make supplication to you?*" "*Will he speak soft words unto you?*" Satan continuously speaks to the heart of man to deceive him to bring doubt, uncertainty and confusion. We, like Paul find it hard to do the things we should, and not do the things we shouldn't and Satan is ever present to tempt us down the wrong path of disobedience to God.

Verse 4,5,6,

*Will he make a covenant with you? Will you take him for a servant for ever?
Will you play with him as a bird? Or will you bind him for your maidens?*

Shall the companions make a banquet of him? Shall they part him among the merchants?

I believe that most of life's issues are addressed in these verses. Note God talks about covenants; a covenant is a binding agreement, God made a covenant with Abraham concerning His people the Jews which He often refers to and will not break. You make a covenant on your wedding day to love and to hold until death do you part, how many times has that covenant been broken? How many people have been crushed and broken because a business partner has broken a partnership covenant and left the other partner bankrupt? God is saying here that Satan will want to make a covenant with you and promise you all sorts of power, riches, fame, popularity etc but he will not keep his side of the bargain because he is the father of lies.

God also talks about taking him for a servant for ever. Anyone who will not choose to follow the ways of God which is the best way will choose to follow Satan which leads to death. God shows us in this verse that to become a servant of Satan will be for ever and ever and ever and at the end of the age and Jesus comes those who follow Satan or are his servants will live for ever and ever with Satan...in hell.

Will you play with him like a bird asks God; who can play with Satan and win? Millions have tried it, thinking they are strong enough to go just so far and no further but they are not as strong as Satan and they give their lives over to drugs, sin, sex, gambling, drinking and so on and make a complete mess of their lives, remember Satan is bigger than you or I don't flirt with him.

Or will you bind him for your maidens? It is no good 'binding' Satan in the name of Jesus as your daughters go out on the town for a good time, the best thing to do is found in:

Proverbs 22 v 6

Train up a child in the way he or she should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it.

There is no doubt that teaching the young the ways of God, will be of great value later in life I have proved it. A lot of prayer will help too!

Shall the companions make a banquet of him? Can any man make merry and party with their friends without someone getting out of hand? Soon the wrong conversations emerge, bad jokes are told and the whole thing sinks to the lowest of the low, you know it happens. And Satan stands behind the drinks cabinet and smiles he's won!

Shall they part him among the merchants? Satan is ever present in the business world; I have found it very hard sometimes to keep my faith and integrity when bribes are offered by many for work that I needed in recession and lost. I have been offered money, gold watches, lunches etc for work I was able to give, and when I had my own business I lost many contracts because other companies offered bribes to get the work I needed. Often you cannot separate Satan and the business world. I thank God I did my best for twenty years to be true to the Lord and His principles and it was only when I retired from business and also retired from a directorship of the Town Chamber of Trade and Commerce that I was complimented on being a man of honesty and integrity by the towns businesses. You don't know how your fellow men are reading your life if you profess to be a Christian and the Lord saw us through to the end anyway thank you Jesus.

Remember Jesus defeated Satan at the cross, Satan is a loser Jesus is the victor, we must rest in Him and cover ourselves with the blood of Jesus in all walks of life because Satan hates the blood, and it was His shed blood that won the victory for us.

I would ask you to read the rest of chapter 41 with prayer and ask the Lord to give you understanding of the verses. Read carefully and slowly if you are in a hurry read them another

day, God wants to teach you and He is in no hurry to rush His Word or to fit in with your programme.

Chapter 42.

In this last chapter of Job he gets an opportunity to tell God, who has been strangely out of 'sight' from Job for most of the time while his 'friends' have held sway, exactly what he thinks of God's handling of his situation. He has complained that God was not anywhere to be found, Job felt alone and his 'friends' were of no comfort at all they only criticised.

In verse one Job now knows that God is all powerful, and all knowing and nothing can be withheld from Him. Verse 4 he says he will demand of God the answers and questions he has stored up over the past weeks and months about how he has been treated. Job still thinks the trials came from God and he did not know that the battle in the heavens over his soul was a fierce one and that Satan and his fallen angels were involved under the limiting hand of God. It would appear that God made himself visible to Job because he says:

Verse 5

I have heard of You by the hearing of my ears: but now my eye sees You.

Job, we must conclude was able to see God as a literal being with a Spirit Body and at this point he says *I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes.*

Before seeing God he was sure of himself enough to hold fast to his own moral excellence and his own belief that his Godly ways of sacrifice on behalf of his family and uprightness in business etc were sufficient to be able to question God, but when he sees God in all His glory and majesty he says he abhors himself and wants to humble himself before this great God.

What a lesson to all of us who think we are 'made' with our sacrificial ministry, our work for Christ, our giving to overseas missions and so on. What a lesson for us who are just 'plodders' for Christ at home in our small corner doing the best we can with very little. We all are very small in the light of a great God and we all need to humble ourselves before Him. Job had to crucify all his good deeds, all his good works, his badness, pride and arrogance and sit in ashes to show everyone he had repented of all that would come before his God. Today we must come before the cross and repent as Job did, it is the cross of Christ that can remove our sins and cast them into the deepest see of God's forgetfulness never to be remembered again so long as we keep faithful to Him.

In the verses that follow God deals with Job's friends and calls them to repentance too by offering burnt offerings and vindicated Job by replacing and giving Job twice as much as he had before. Jobs acquaintances also came and brought him gifts of money and Gold and they still thought that it was God who had caused all this evil on Job, but we now know different don't we?

I trust that those of you who suffer and are in great pain that this study of Job will be of help, it has me and I am admitting to you all of my contention with God about my pain I confess this study has challenged me to repent of my arrogance in demanding of God my 'rights' of Bible promises. I accept that He is God and can do just what He likes because I know I am saved and bound for heaven I am His child and I want to receive that "*eternal weight of glory*" when I get there.

God bless you all

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